

**City of Selah  
Council Minutes  
of  
December 9, 2003**

Regular Meeting  
Selah Council Chambers  
115 West Naches Avenue  
Selah, WA 98942

**A. Call to Order** Mayor Bob Jones called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

**B. Roll Call**

Members Present: Brian Harris, Jerry Kobes, Keith Larson, Pete McNew, Allen Schmid, Herb Schmidt, Scott Smeback

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Rick Gutierrez, Police Chief; Gary Hanna, Deputy Fire Chief; Joe Henne, Director of Public Works; Dennis Davison, Community Planner; John Gawlik, Building and Code Enforcement Officer; Jeff Hagler, Director of Parks & Recreation; Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Scott Smeback led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Lowell Welker led the group in prayer.

**D. Agenda Changes**

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski administered the oath of office to Brian Harris, appointed to fill the unexpired term of Ron Deatherage. Councilman Harris was seated with the rest of the Council.

**E. Public Appearances**

**F. Getting To Know Our Businesses**

**G. Communications**

1. Oral
2. Written
  - a. Letter from YVCOG Regarding 2004 Delegate Appointments

**H. Proclamations/Announcements**

**I. Consent Agenda**

All items listed with an asterisk (\*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

- \* 1. Approval of Minutes: November 25, 2003
- \* 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll – Claims check nos. 42080 - 42147 for a total of \$169,745.83.

Councilman Schmidt moved to add Item M – 4 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign the 2004 Interlocal Correction/Detention Agreement and the Agreement for Prosecution, Adjudication, Sentencing, and Incarceration of Adult Misdemeanants and Gross Misdemeanants To Fulfill Statutory Obligations by RCW 39.34.180 to the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Schmid moved to add Item M – 5 Resolution Approving the Agreement for Mutual Aid for Emergencies and Disasters in Yakima County (September 11, 2003) to the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Larson seconded both motions. Without objection, those items were added to the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda as amended.

Councilman Larson moved, and Councilman Kobes seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **J. Public Hearings**

#### **K. New Business**

#### **L. Old Business**

#### **M. Resolutions**

Councilman Schmid requested consideration of Item M – 2 before the rest of the Resolutions. It was considered ahead of M – 1.

##### **2. Resolution Revising for Collection of Solid Waste**

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski introduced the Resolution, noting that the Solid Waste Fund has lost ground in the last few years. He noted the impact of the increase on a resident with the standard two-can service would be \$.91 per month, and the other types of service are increased proportionally.

Councilman Schmid asked if all of the increased revenue would go into the reserve fund. The Clerk/Treasurer responded that revenue would come into the operating fund from which the City pays Superior Refuse and covers such things as billing expense, increased postage costs, etc. He stated we have been paying more out without collecting any more from the customer.

Councilman Schmid asked if the City is expecting any increases from Superior Refuse.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet stated the City received no notice from Superior within the contract timeline, so we do not anticipate any increases at this time.

Councilman Schmidt moved approval of the Resolution Revising Rates for Collection of Solid Waste. Councilman Smeback seconded. Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes, Councilman Schmidt –

yes; Councilman Schmid – yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – yes; Councilman Harris – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jones noted nobody likes to increase utility rates. He praised the Council and staff for their hard work in developing the budget and considering the quality of service and the costs that service must bear. He moved the Agenda to Resolution M – 1.

### 1. Resolution Revising Rates for Water Utility Services

Huibregtse, Louman, Inc. Engineer Ted Pooler addressed the Council regarding utility increases. He handed information sheets to Council Members illustrating the impact of water and sewer rate increases on residential, local business and industrial users. He noted water and sewer services are somewhat different from solid waste because the City owns and operates those utilities directly.

He stated the closing of Hi Country Foods Corporation impacted both water and sewer, and the City will lose about \$62,000 per year about 7% of total revenues. He noted that some losses will be offset by reduced operating costs, but in the water fund it is not significant (the only consumables being power and chlorine). He stated that Hi Country was the largest user of Selah's wastewater facilities contributing \$750,000 per year or 41% of sewer fund revenue. He noted maintenance costs will be reduced, because pretreatment will not need to be in operation, as well as bio-solid treatment and disposal, the operating expenses of sludge processing and disposal.

He stated the City of Selah has a sound financial base and a sound approach for these funds. He noted there have been no increases in water rates since January of 2000 or sewer rates since October of 2001. He noted water conservation has also impacted the system; industrial customers have cut back on water usage.

Mr. Pooler reviewed examples of typical users and the impact of the new water, sewer and garbage rates. He also referred to water/sewer rate comparisons with other communities as provided by AWC.

Councilman Smeback moved approval of the Resolution Revising Rates for Water Utility Services. Councilman Schmidt seconded.

Councilman Schmid stated the City has few choices given what has happened, but ought to keep in mind that if a significant industrial user comes into the City perhaps we should look at a rollback of rates. He stated that now it is impossible to move forward without an increase, but we should show taxpayers the Council's commitment to revisit the issue in that situation.

City Supervisor Sweet stated we will need to review all of these funds. He noted the City will review the potential impact of new industrial users that might come into the City.

Councilman Schmidt called for the question. Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes, Councilman Schmidt – yes; Councilman Schmid – reluctantly, yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – yes; Councilman Harris – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Resolution Revising Rates for Sewer Utility Services

Councilman Schmid noted the Council is in the same situation with this Resolution as with the previous one. He moved approval of the Resolution Revising Rates for Sewer Utility Services. Councilman

McNew seconded. Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes, Councilman Schmidt – yes; Councilman Schmid – reluctantly, yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – reluctantly, yes; Councilman Harris – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- \* 4. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign the 2004 Interlocal Correction/Detention Agreement and the Agreement for Prosecution, Adjudication, Sentencing, and Incarceration of Adult Misdemeanants and Gross Misdemeanants To Fulfill Statutory Obligations by RCW 39.34.180
- \* 5. Resolution Approving the Agreement for Mutual Aid for Emergencies and Disasters in Yakima County (September 11, 2003)
- 6. Resolution Adopting Selah Urban Growth Area Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2001-1 (Southwest Basin Sub-Area Plan)

Community Planner Dennis Davison noted an error in the Agenda title for this item. He reviewed the history of this item, explaining that the Planning Commission wishes to establish a Transportation and Utility Corridor Map as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan so that a developer coming into the City with a proposed subdivision cannot ignore what has been done in the way of identifying corridors for streets and utilities.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet asked if this takes into consideration the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Mr. Davison stated he has not seen the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Mr. Sweet expressed concern over whether this would lock the City in if the Transportation Plan comes back with a different corridor.

Councilman Allen Schmid asked why the Council is considering this without having completion of the Transportation Plan? Councilman McNew agreed, noting there could be a potential conflict.

The Community Planner stated he doesn't know what consultants are looking at for a Transportation Plan.

The City Supervisor stated they are looking City-wide and are supposed to be completed this year.

Councilman Schmid stated he doesn't want to create a conflict, recognizing that this has been under consideration for a number of years. He stated he'd support tabling action on this item.

Frank Sweet stated his fear of getting locked into a "well, the City approved this plan..." business. He stated he would prefer to get the Transportation Plan adopted and then designate utility corridors relative to that plan.

Councilman Larson moved to table until such time as we have the transportation study information available. Councilman McNew seconded.

Councilman Schmid requested a point of clarification, noting the Council should stipulate a timeline.

City Supervisor Sweet stated the Transportation Plan should be finished in thirty-five to forty days.

Councilman Larson and Councilman McNew accepted as a friendly amendment the stipulation that this item will be back before the Council no later than the second Council Meeting in February (February 24, 2004).

Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes, Councilman Schmidt – yes; Councilman Schmid – yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – yes; Councilman Harris – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**N. Ordinances**

**O. Communications**

1. Oral

**P. Reports/Announcements**

1. Mayor
2. Council Members
3. Boards
4. Departmental
  - a. Selah Municipal Court Report - November 2003
  - b. Planning Commission Minutes – November 18, 2003 - Approved

Mayor Jones thanked Engineer Ted Pooler for his excellent presentation.

Councilman Schmid expressed his hope that everyone will have happy and safe holidays. He reported having a meeting with Library Board, Friends of the Library, and the committee of Council Members. He stated the group covered a lot of ground and laid the groundwork for how to proceed from this point. He praised the enthusiasm on the part of those attending.

Councilman Jerry Kobes echoed Councilman Schmid's sentiments, stating it was a good, positive meeting. He thanked all for the Whisper of Christmas parade turnout.

Mayor Jones stated he hopes everyone understands that the City is working to provide a much better library than we have now.

Councilman Herb Schmidt concurred with the positive perception of the meeting. He stated the group agreed to have a recommendation to Yakima Valley Regional Library Board by August of 2004. He also reported his involvement with the Emergency Management meeting last week. He stated Director Jim Hall has organized a component to be distributed to cities in the Valley. Mayor Jones stated the Office of Emergency Management has done an excellent job.

Councilman Brian Harris thanked the voters of Selah for their support, noting he hopes to be up to speed as quickly as he can. He stated he is looking forward to serving and hopes we all reach out to someone in the community over the holidays.

Councilman Scott Smeback welcomed Brian Harris to the Council.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet welcomed the newest Council Member and thanked all who put time and effort into the Whisper of Christmas celebration. He thanked Joe Henne and the Public Works crew for the liquid deicer.

Mayor Jones noted Jerry Davis is in Maryland for a grant review school. He is one of three from west coast appointed to attend.

Community Planner Dennis Davison reported three-ring notebooks containing proposed changes in Zoning Codes will be available next meeting.

Mayor Jones thanked Jeff Hagler and all who helped with Whispers of Christmas.

Parks & Rec Director Jeff Hagler reported the latest Parks & Rec activities brochure is available. He reported new Parks employee Dan Speer is working hard.

Mayor Jones reported he also had Emergency Management meeting last week. He stated he is glad the Council approved the Mutual Aid Agreement, and he likes to share and pool resources with other cities in Yakima County. He stated he was pleased with turnout at Whispers of Christmas.

**Q. Executive Session**

(No Executive Session Scheduled)

**R. Adjournment**

Council Member Schmid moved and Council Member Larson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. With voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.

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Robert L. Jones, Mayor

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Gerald Kobes Council Member

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Keith Larson, Council Member

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Peter McNew, Council Member

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Allen Schmid, Council Member

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Herb Schmidt, Council Member

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Scott Smeback, Council Member

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Brian Harris, Council Member

ATTEST:

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Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer